



Summary of Changes Report – November 2007

Palliative Care Order Set

The Palliative Care Order Set format changed considerably over the course of the eight week Review and Comment process. The order set is divided into sections based on symptoms. All tasks that would align with nursing orders were separated from medication orders. Following the nursing orders are the medication options. These too are sectioned by symptoms.

The overall concern of overdosing with multi-symptom medications changed the format. Also the list of medications for some symptoms is larger than others. Therefore the reader will first see a text box containing the medication options for each symptom. An asterisk* after a specific drug, denotes that this is a multi-symptom medication. Orders for these drugs are listed under Multi-Symptom Medications.

Comments from the ICSI membership resulted in the following changes:

Code Status—DNI: The option to choose DNR and DNI individually was discussed at length. ACLS protocols do not treat them as individual options. In palliative care it is important that patient and family life-prolonging decisions are discussed and clearly stated to the provider. The DNI order was removed from the order set.

Medications: Lactulose for bowel management was deleted. Dexamethasone was added for nausea symptoms and also for bone pain. The intervals for opioid use in pain treatment was corrected.

Support for Implementation

The physical symptoms that need to be addressed in patients receiving palliative care are often numerous in some patients. We are aware that some users will integrate order sets into their hospital's electronic medical record. Others will use this in its paper format until EMR is available. Order sets developed at ICSI should be customized to the individual hospital's system for optimal use.

**An asterisk indicates any changes in clinical practice recommendations*

